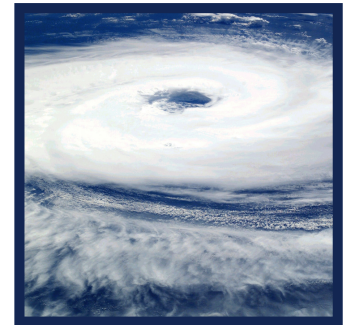




# HURRICANE/TROPICAL CYCLONE

Hurricanes, tropical storms, and typhoons are collectively known as Tropical Cyclones. NOAA defines a Tropical Cyclone as a warm-core non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well defined center. Once formed, a tropical cyclone is maintained by the extraction of heat energy from the ocean at high temperature and heat export at the low temperatures of the upper troposphere.



## HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

According to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) database, 13 named Tropical Cyclones passed close enough to impact Howard County between 1950 and 2019, only one of which reached hurricane strength. Since that data was collected, three other tropical storms have impacted Howard County (Irene and Lee in 2011 and Sandy in 2012) during the reporting period.

## WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

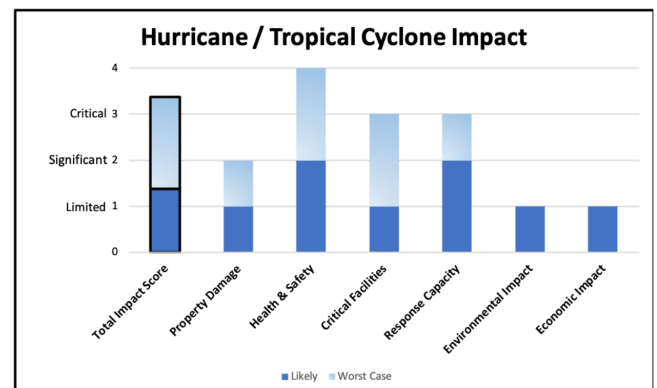
There is an expected 11-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Hurricane/Tropical Cyclone in Howard County. In the most likely Hurricane/Tropical Cyclone scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Critical-Catastrophic.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- A Hurricane requires a maximum sustained wind speed of 74 mph or higher. A storm with sustained winds between 39-73 mph is considered a Tropical Storm.
- Hurricane Sandy (2012) caused an estimated \$5 million in property damage in Maryland.
- The right-front quadrant of the storm contains the highest winds and storm surge.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)



Hurricane/Tropical Cyclone Risk Profile				
LIKELIHOOD	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
	Likelihood	3 Likely		50%
CONSEQUENCE	Impact	1.3 Limited-Significant	3.3 Critical-Catastrophic	40%
	Warning Time	1 Very Long	1 Very Long	5%
	Duration	2 Moderate	4 Very Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		2.1	3.07	

